719

Matthews Ridge back to life

IT IS a one-hour flight from Ogle Airstrip to Port Kaituma -- that once busy mining centre where our manganese was loaded in boats and sold to the world.

They mined our ore and built a small city there at Matthews Ridge and then left it in shambles. And Matthews Ridge would have died. You can still see the relics of the past ... old buildings, dumps and abandoned ore wagons like an eyesore amidst the hills and lush green foliage.

But Matthews Ridge will not die because Guyanese have reclaimed it. A modern school is going up; there is a new cassava mill being built that will soon be in production. Houses are being built and rebuilt. There are acres and acres of corn, cassava, pineapples, livestock and small farms and there are settlers there determined to make this area a prosperous community.

Matthews Ridge has got a sister settlement less than a dozen miles away. It is called Jonestown, named after an American preacher, Jim Jones, who brought his "flock" all the way from California to settle in the Guyana hinterland. But they are not converting people into Christians. In fact they do not even have a place of worship.

Jonestown is a settlement of several hundred acres, carved out from virgin forest. When Bishop Jones said he wanted to contribute to Guyana's 5CH programme, the Guyana Government selected this area which was found to contain fertile land for agriculture.

After 13 months of existence at the settlement, the Bishop invited the Lieutenant Governor of California, Mervyn Dymally, to come and see the progress of his experiment. This was my first visit to Jonestown and when Bishop Jones told me that they had already invested nearly $6 million(G) on the project, my first impression was "what has happened to all that money?

But after a tour of the settlement, I had to admire these settlers. It is a multi-racial community of Americans -- Black, White, Jews and Indians. The youngest is a baby and the oldest is a centurion, Poo Jackson.

There are about 75 Americans there, including 10 doctors. Some of the settlers did farming in the US, but the majority are learning on the job.

There are not many buildings -- a large mess hall and kitchen where the community take their meals, a building that houses the office and another the workshop. A small sawmill is turning out rough boards from the abundance of mora, crabwood and simarupa growing in the area.

Two dormitories are being built to house the people. There is electricity from two plants and water from shallow wells. There are refrigeration units and food is cooked with domestic gas.

Transporting fuel is a problem -- but there is a plan to utilise wood to power all the plants.

I was told that the settlement is almost self-supporting in ground provisions and green vegetables, chicken and pork. In fact, just before the Christmas holidays over 700 chickens were sold to settlers at Matthews Ridge, plus a truckload of vegetables.

The People's Temple Agricultural Mission -- this is what it is called -- also employs a number of people from around the nearby villages.

About a mile away from the mission, there is a flourishing poultry farm, and a piggery which is prospering. Later there will be cows and sheep.

Besides the vegetable gardens, and ground provisions, there is a plan to grow citrus. Land for this purpose has already been cleared and it is hoped to establish a cannery to produce preserved food and juices. The settlement has become famous for its cassareep which is sold in Georgetown.

A large part of the lands leased have been marked out for the establishment of a modern hospital and clinic and medical personnel will be brought to Guyana to operate it.

All the settlers wear a red jersey and blue dungaree as their daily wear and every able-bodied person is allotted special jobs.

I talked to a few of the settlers and they said they were very happy in their new life. Despite being members of a Christian church, there is no building for worship.

Bishop Jones told me: "Our religion is to be in the service of man. There is no pressing need for a place of worship." He said that although they had a multi-racial community there, they had encountered no social problems.

At the airstrip before we embarked on the GDF Islander for Georgetown, most of the settlers who had come to see us off, held their clenched fists above their heads.

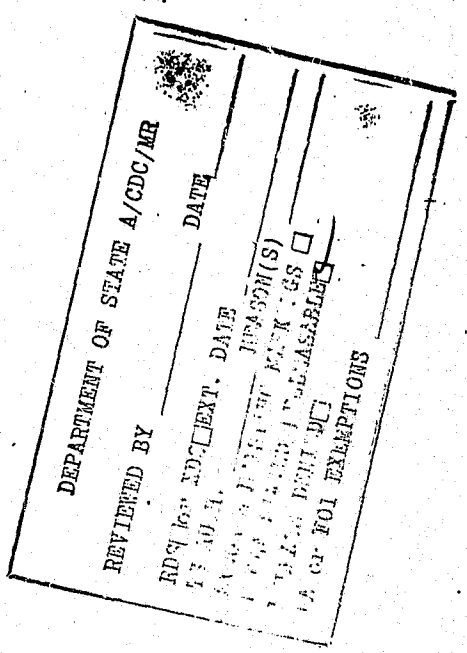
Jonestown is a bold ex-

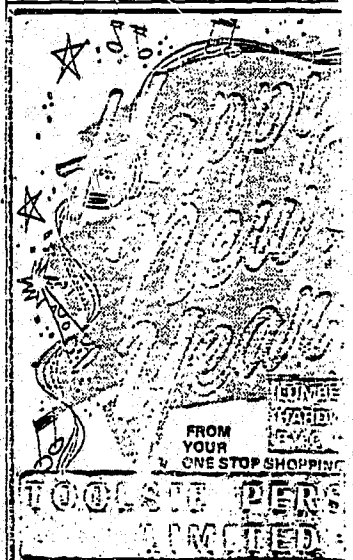
Americans join PCH drive in Guyana

periment and the Government is giving the settlers full co-operation. How well the experiment will turn out, only time will tell.

Bishop Jones said: "We are thankful that your Government has given us this opportunity. My people have found happiness here and they want to contribute to the peace and progress of Guyana. Considering the situation today, your Government has been very tolerant... allowing Americans to settle here. They trust us and we do not intend to break that trust."

(SN)





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STOCK-TAKING

The following Departments will be closed for stock-taking.

Massey Ferguson Agricultural Machinery Department — 3rd to 4th January, 1977.

Massey Ferguson Agricultural Machinery Spare Parts Dept. — 3rd to 10th January, 1977

Horticultural Department, Hardware Division and Book Stationery Division — Camp Street — 3rd to 5th January, 1977.

Hotel

Belvedere

Restaurant-Bar

NEW YEAR'S NIGHT DANCE TONIGHT

FEATURING THE DOMINATORS

AND IN ADDITION THE BEST DISCO SOUNDS

For Reservations: Phone 65871-3 or 69228-9

All complimentaries suspended

Strict Security Measures against

Undesirables have been instituted.

TRANSPORT AND HARBOURS DEPARTMENT

HARBOURS BRANCH

VACANCY CIRCULAR

Two (2) Vacancies exist for Pilot Trainees, Harbours Branch, Transport and Harbours Department.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for appointment to the post of Pilot Trainee in the Harbours Branch on Salary Range A17: ($340 x 20 - 520).

The point of entry into the scale will depend upon the experience of the candidate.

JOB SPECIFICATION:

2. Home Trade Masters or Mates Certificate with favourable experience at sea.
3. The applicants selected will be trained for immediate induction into the Pilot Services.
4. On selection the trainees will have to sign an agreement to work as a pilot with Transport and Harbours Department, for five (5) years after the completion of their training.
5. Applications should be forwarded to reach the General Manager, Transport and Harbours Department, 1 Water and Cornhill Streets, Georgetown, not later than 15th January, 1977.

Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.

W. N. Griffith,
General Manager.

Transport and Harbours Department,
1, Water & Cornhill Streets,
Stabroek,
Georgetown.
8th December, 1976.

Trinidad

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CANA

High marks for developing countries' food output

FAO report credits priority to agriculture in national plans

BY ROLAND DALLAS

ROME, Developing countries, with a boost from the weather, have been credited by the Council of the U.N's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) for a marked improvement in the world's food and agricultural situation.

A report adopted in December by the 42-nation council said "due credit should be given to the steps taken in many developing countries to give higher priority to agriculture in their national development plans, and to implement various new policies and measures which resulted in increased output".

However, FAO Director-General Edouard Saouma commented that it would be cynical to speak of peace and prosperity when millions of men, women and children lived on the edge of poverty and starvation.

The council also warned that the world should avoid the danger of relapsing into complacency at the first signs of recovery since the food crisis began in 1972.

The "council's report recorded an "encouraging rise" of about four per cent in the food and agricultural production of developing countries in 1975 compared to two per cent for the world as a whole.

FAO estimates another global increase of production of between two and three per cent this year.

But the council noted that most of the recent trends in world trade have been unfavourable to the developing countries.

Sharply increased exports in 1975 brought them only a marginal gain in earnings and progress in the negotiations to solve long-standing commodity and trade problems and was unsatisfactory and slow, it added.

While reserve food stocks needed to help the world survive a series of bad harvests had improved, the council said full achievement of world food security was still far away. Delegates were split on how quickly to act.

Some developing countries called for immediate low-interest loans to help them build up their national food stocks.

But developed countries wanted to postpone a decision, which was eventually delayed until June next year.

In the field of food aid, the Council was told that the world food programme had received pledges for the 1975 and 76 biennium totalling US$568 million or 52 per cent more than its target.

With US$574 million already pledged for 1977-73, more than 76 per cent of the targets of US$750 million had also been reached.

Reuter

Dymally, Jones told of Guyana's relations with US

PRIME Minister Forbes Burnham and Foreign Minister Fred Wills met with Bishop Jim Jones — who established the People's Temple Agriculture Mission at Jonestown in the North-west District — and with the Lieutenant Governor of California, Hon. Mervyn Dymally.

The private meeting, which took place Wednesday in the Prime Minister's residence, centred on the topic of relations between Guyana and the United States.

The Lt. Governor is the second top political figure in the most populated state of America, and he came as Bishop Jones' guest to visit the Jonestown project and also to pay a courtesy visit to the Prime Minister.

Both Bishop Jones and the Lt. Governor have spoken out on the right of all Third World countries to pursue a course of self-determination without interference from any other country.

Bishop Jones, who has a large movement of many thousands in various states of America, met privately with Mrs. Jimmy Carter, the newly elected President's wife, and also the new Vice-President, Walter Mondale, prior to the recent U.S. Presidential election.

The Bishop made his personal support of the Carter-Mondale ticket contingent on the assurance that the new administration would pursue a non-interventionist policy, particularly with respect to Guyana. The Bishop said he was given that assurance by both Mrs. Carter and Vice-President Mondale.

Prime Minister Burnham and Minister Wills indicated to Bishop Jones and Lt. Gov. Dymally that Guyana wants to keep the doors open to co-operation with the United States. The Lt. Governor said he intends to convey that message to the U.S State Department sometime after the inauguration of the new President in January. The Lt. Governor recently spoke during in Trinidad, where he grew

CDE. Fred Wills.

up — against CIA destabilisation efforts in the Caribbean.

Following the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Ptolemy Reid gave Bishop Jones and Lt. Governor Dymally a luncheon reception at Herdmanston House, which was attended by many other ministers and government officials, as well as representatives of the clergy, trade union movement, and the medical field.

Dr. Reid extended his appreciation, on behalf of the government, to the Lt. Governor for his interest in the well-being of Guyana. Referring to Bishop Jones as an unofficial ambassador of goodwill between Guyana and the U.S., Dr. Reid also thanked him for supporting the government's Feed, Clothe, and House the Nation Programme through the Jonestown project.

On tour of Carib.

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados — Mr. James Jerome, chairman of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) will pay an official visit to Barbados from January 6 to 9, it has been reported here.

Mr. Jerome who is on a tour of the Commonwealth Caribbean along with other members of his delegation will visit Grenada before coming here and the Bahamas afterwards.

The CPA head who is a speaker of the Canadian House of Commons, will be guest of the local branch of the CPA during his three days' visit here, the report said.

Mr. Jerome is expected to pay courtesy calls on Barbados' Governor-General Sir Deighton Ward, Prime Minister J. M. G. "Tom" Adams, Speaker of the Barbados House of Assembly, Mr. Burton Richards and President of the Senate C. Arnott Cato. Mr. Hinds and Dr. Cato are current presidents of the local branch of the CPA.

(Cana)

THANKS

FRASER — The wife, children and relatives of the late HUGH ARTHUR FRASER thank all those who attended the funeral, sent wreaths, telegrams, letters and cards and in any other way sympathised with them in their recent bereavement.

INVITATION TO TENDER

Tenders are invited for the purchase of the following vehicles . .

Motor Cars: Ford Cortina Estate Reg. No. GZ 9237
Toyota Motor Car Mark 11 Reg. No. PZ 9935

Vans: British Leyland J4 Van Reg. No. PAA 778
Morris JU Van Reg. No. GAA 2923

The vehicles may be inspected on any work day, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8.30 a.m. — 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. — 4 p.m. and on Saturday from 8.30 a.m. — 11.30 a.m. by arrangement with the Plant Superintendent.

Tenders in sealed envelopes must be addressed to the General Manager marked "Tender for Vehicles" on the top left hand corner and should arrive not later than 11 a.m. Saturday 15th January, 1977.

Guyana National Newspapers Limited does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any Tender submitted.

D. Lewis
Secretary/Accountant (Acting)
GUYANA NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS LIMITED